

## **SAFER CONSUMER PRODUCTS**

### **PART V:**

- **Slate: A meaningful Partnership**

#### **SOT of Debbie Raphael – DTSC Director**

Last year these regulations ended in sort of a flurry. There was an intensity to get them done by January 1<sup>st</sup>. That was the legal requirement. Staff was working as hard as they could and furiously as they could to meet that deadline. Around November it became clear that there was a lot of anxiety about the form that these regulations were taking. It was decided by then secretary of CalEPA, Linda Adams, to stop and say ok fine we are not going to meet our deadline because we need to do this right not so much on time. I think that was a real blessing for all of us because what it allowed me to do, as the new director, is to take a step a step back and to make sure that all the voices had been heard. I think part of the problem with the last time around was that things happened at the last minute that felt like they were momentous change and people were only given a very short time to comment. That perception was that government was trying to slip something by. What happened between that January drop dead date and now in October where we're going to be releasing the latest version is a very, very intensive process of working with the green ribbon science panel where we didn't just have meetings and large discussions. We broke up into working groups. We had conference calls. We had homework. We really got the most out of these scientists that we possibly could. These are the top scientists from around the country who have essentially volunteered their time to work with California to make sure that we really do have something that is meaningful. So the green ribbon science panel is the way we engaged with the scientific community. In terms of engaging with industry...we did that in a couple of ways. We had individual companies come to our offices and discuss their concerns, talk about their hopes for the way this regulation might be implemented. We also were lucky enough to have the expertise and the input of a larger group called the Green Chemistry Alliance and this Green Chemistry Alliance represents hundreds of different companies. They've been engaged deeply in this conversation for years now. With the consumer public...there is where we...we depended very heavily on our community based organizations. There is a coalition of community groups in California under the umbrella of something called CHANGE. Those organizations represent environmental justice, labor, workers safety, environmental health, breast cancer, environmental water quality...a whole host of

organizations have come together to work with us on that. Our engagement with the public was really through those organizations.

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**Link to video:**

<http://youtu.be/YVFanaSlahU>